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Editor: J.B.Delair.
Editorial Address,
19, Cumnor Road,
Wootton, Boar's Hill,
Near Oxford, Oxfordshire.

Telephone:
Oxford 735571.

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The Contact (UK) Directory.

National Chairman: F.W.Passey; 59D Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford, Oxon.

General Secretary: J.B.Delair; 19 Cumnor Road, Wootton, Boar's Hill, near Oxford, Oxon.

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: D.N.Mansell; 75 Norreys Road, Cumnor, near Oxford, Oxon.

Public Relations Officer: W.Oldershaw; "Quarry Cottage", Enstone, Oxford.

Research Enquiries Officers: J.Sears and L.Dudley; c/o 75 Norreys Road, Cumnor, near Oxford, Oxon.

Senior Research Officer: D.N.Mansell; address as above.

Research Programme Co-ordinator: J.B.Delair; address as above.

Librarian and Archivist: E.Cox; c/o 75 Norreys Road, Cumnor, near Oxford, Oxon.

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EDITORIAL.

Since the publication of the last issue of "Awareness", in September, CONTACT (UK)'s Annual General Meeting and London Lectures have come and gone. As previously advertised, these were this year held on November 16th. at the Tudor Room in Caxton Hall, and were attended by upwards of 160 individuals.

Among the highlights of this occasion was the unanimous adoption by all those present at the Annual General Meeting of the proposal that the current annual

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subscriptions should increase from £2.00p to £2.50p (for members of 16 years of age and over) and from £1.00p to £1.50p (for members under 16 years of age), in order to offset the effects of the present inflation spiral inevitably being experienced by CONTACT (UK). These increases will become effective as from April 1st., 1975. It was simultaneously agreed that those members who happen to be old age pensioners --- who collectively total less than 2% of CONTACT (UK)'s overall membership --- should continue to subscribe at the old rate of £2.00p per person for a further calendar year (i.e., up to April 1st., 1976).

Such modest increases have only been possible due to the very healthy influx of new paying members joining CONTACT (UK) over the past fifteen months or so.

The election of three additional National Committee members (W.Oldershaw, L.Dudley, and J.B.Delair), principally to strengthen the already over-worked administrative personnel on the existing Committee, was also carried. Unfortunately, within only three weeks of passing this motion, first Anthony Riebold and then David Baxter independently found it necessary to resign from the Committee owing to unforeseen business commitments. Thus CONTACT (UK) experienced the unexpected loss of its General Secretary and its Public Relations Officer in quick succession, while the measures described above to strengthen the administrative side of its affairs were largely nullified. Since then, and by judicious reorganization of their various roles, the surviving Committee members have agreed to divide between them the duties set out overleaf. But even this rearrangement is partly unsatisfactory, and further reorganization may well take place in due course. The main thing is, however, that CONTACT (UK) continues to operate smoothly and efficiently.

At this juncture, your Committee would like to record their sincere appreciation of the valuable contributions made over the past years by both Anthony Riebold and David Baxter, who, most happily, are at least remaining as members of CONTACT (UK). They will be sorely missed, but perhaps one day they can be enticed into taking up the cudgels again for CONTACT (UK). Who knows?

It must have been a great disappointment to many that Brinsley Le Poer Trench (who was scheduled to give one of the two lectures) became indisposed shortly before the meeting; so it was at exceedingly short notice that one of London's best known younger ufologists, Mark Stenhoff, valiantly agreed to take his place. And what a talk he gave. No mere substitute, it was an exceptionally penetrating appraisal of the shortcomings of scientific methodology when applied to the ufo phenomenon, of the dogmatism of scientists in general and, yes, of ufologists too. Well balanced and occasionally most amusing, Mr Stenhoff's talk was well received and later elicited many questions from the audience.

As the present writer delivered the second lecture this is scarcely the place to comment upon its merits or defects. However, since the speaker was not lynched or done away with, and a number of highly interesting questions were asked by the audience afterwards, it can only be assumed that the talk was well enough received and managed to stimulate favourable audience reaction.

Exhibitions of hitherto unpublished ufo photographs, and two displays of recent ufo publications were also prominent features of the meeting, which, as a general gathering and means of communicating mutually interesting ideas, seems to have been thoroughly enjoyed by almost everyone who attended.

J.B.Delair.

FURTHER NEWS FROM PUERTO RICO

by
Noel Rigau.

(Editorial Note: The Summer 1974 issue of "Awareness" (vol.3, no:2, pp.3-18) reported some of the more outstanding and better documented ufo incidents collected from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic by Noel Rigau for the period beginning February 1973 and ending January 1974. Since the publication of that issue, Mr Rigau has been able to supply further details concerning several of those incidents, as well as a firsthand account of another sighting made during March this year, and to which a most interesting sequel was attached. The present article summarizes this new information)

Drawings have recently been received from several eyewitnesses of certain ufos seen over Puerto Rico described in my earlier report, and are presented here as supplementary material to the cases in question (see "Awareness", vol. 3, no:2. pp.4, 7, and 12-14). These drawings are reproduced as figures 1 - 3 on plate I supra, and disclose that at least those particular ufos were essentially similar in shape and form to many other ufos reported from other countries on other occasions. It is, in passing, also worth noting the presence in two of the Puerto Rican ufos (figs.2 and 3) of "antennae" or antennae-like structures, a detail mentioned comparatively rarely in ufo descriptions as a whole.

Eyewitness sketches of ufo occupants have also been obtained for the Arecibo (June 1973) and El Yunque (October 1973) incidents. Figures 5 and 6 on plate II supra are based on these. It is immediately obvious that entirely dissimilar types of entities are represented, it being virtually impossible to conceive of the two forms depicted as being different aspects of a single ufonaut type --- even allowing for eyewitness perception variability. Nonetheless, comparisons should be made between these forms and the various kinds of ufonauts discussed in "The Humanoids" (edited by Charles Bowen).

* * * * *

I am now able to submit an account of an hitherto unrecorded ufo manifestation, and of which I was one of the fortunate witnesses. It is as follows.

At 8.35pm. on Sunday, 24th March, 1974, Gabriel Ferrer (an architect), William Santana (also an architect), and the writer were assembled at the home of the first named individual at Morcello, when Santana became aware in the sky of an unusually bright spot, three times the ordinary size of the planet Mars, directly up and ahead of the group. At this, Santana jumped out of his chair, Ferrer shouted to his wife and Mrs Santana --- who were then putting the Ferrer children to bed --- to come and see the phenomenon, while the writer ran for a pair of binoculars. All individuals then quickly converged on the far side of the house, as that afforded the best vantage point, and from where was observed the following spectacle.

A cigar-shaped object could be seen at the front of an intense bluish light, which seemed to be directly attached to the object's rear end. Behind that was a perfectly horizontal and very wide golden hued stripe --- as if painted on the heavens --- estimated by us after calculations to be 10 - 15 miles in length.

4. This stripe continued to increase in length as the object producing it proceeded quickly on a north-south course over the island. At this juncture, the only audible sounds were the excited cries of the Ferrer children who had jumped out of bed to watch the event for themselves.

With the aid of binoculars, Santana was able to distinguish portholes on the side of the cigar-shaped object, and as many as 20 luminous spheres issuing from the rear of the intense bluish light. These spheres trailed the main object at the same fantastic speed, later calculated by us as about 3,000 miles per hour, on the basis of the fact that the whole phenomenon passed over the 35-miles wide island in less than one minute. After crossing the island, the whole spectacle started to fade, eventually leaving only a cloud where the bluish light was last seen, the cloud itself slowly disappearing later.

By 9.0pm., the writer left for home, calling on the way at the residence of Ivan Garcia, a friend of many years' standing. On arrival there it was learnt that the same object had been sighted by Mr and Mrs Garcia, together with Mr and Mrs Pedro Izquierdo, who had that day accompanied them to Salinas and back, and who, as a group, had watched the object while they were crossing the mountains on their return journey. It was found that the descriptions furnished by these observers compared very closely with those of the group at Morcelo. Upon realization of this, a detailed account of the observation was telephoned to the office of the Associated Press, from which source it was learnt that other accounts of the same object had been received there from Cabo Rojo, Aguadilla, Arecibo, San German Mayaguez, and even from the Dominican Republic.

Very early the following morning (Monday, 25th March), local radio stations began broadcasting this writer's telephoned report on the sighting, but later the same day, and to everyone's dismay, the newspaper "El Mundo" published a press release from the San Juan Weather Bureau explaining the object away as nothing more than a luminous balloon (meteorological) released by them.

Around midnight on the same date, and after lengthy discussions with William Santana and our technical advisor, Sebastian Robiou, the writer, in company with those colleagues, visited Angel Morales at the Associated Press offices and issued the following statement:

"In view of the fact that most of the people of Puerto Rico missed observing the extraordinary show put-up by a luminous balloon released without previous notice by the Weather Bureau, we are publically asking this agency to please repeat the experiment at a pre-stated date and hour so that everyone in Puerto Rico may enjoy such a fantastic show. We suggest Friday evening at 8.0pm for a repetition of the experiment. In fact you should as a rule notify in advance every time you are about to carry out any such thing in the future, so as to leave no doubt as to who is responsible for all the supposed UFO activity reported now so frequently".

Our suggestion was well taken by the radio station, who expressed their own wish that the local weather bureau comply with our sensible request when they duly broadcast it on Tuesday, 26th March. Needless to say, none of us believed for one moment that any kind of balloon, luminous or otherwise, had been responsible for this sighting. Certainly no balloon known to us is capable of travelling at approximately 3,000 miles an hour.

Plate I.

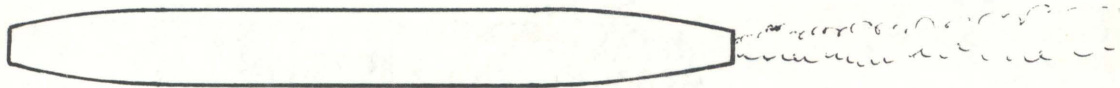


Fig. 1
Mayaguez: 27 Sept. 1973.

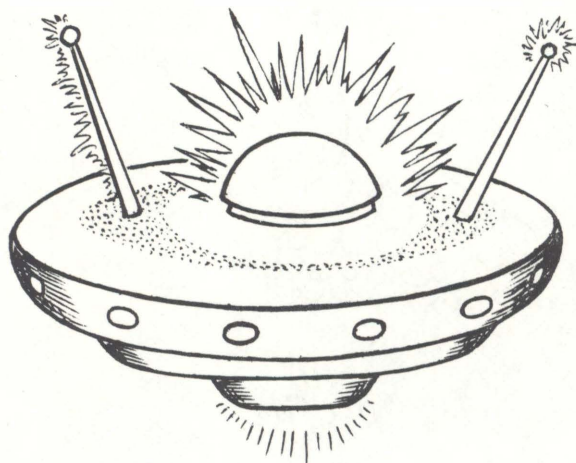


Fig. 2
Toa Baja: 2 Nov. 1973.

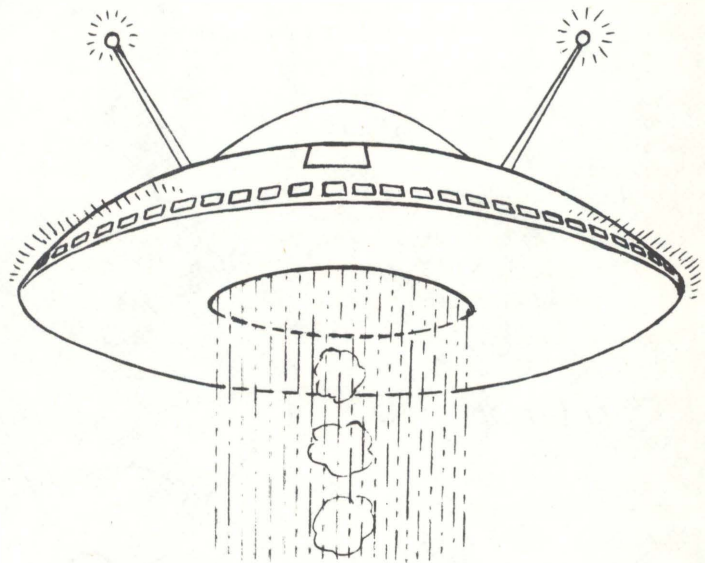


Fig. 3
Bayamón: 3 Jan. 1974.

Graph of Puerto Rican UFO Activity: 1963 to 1973.

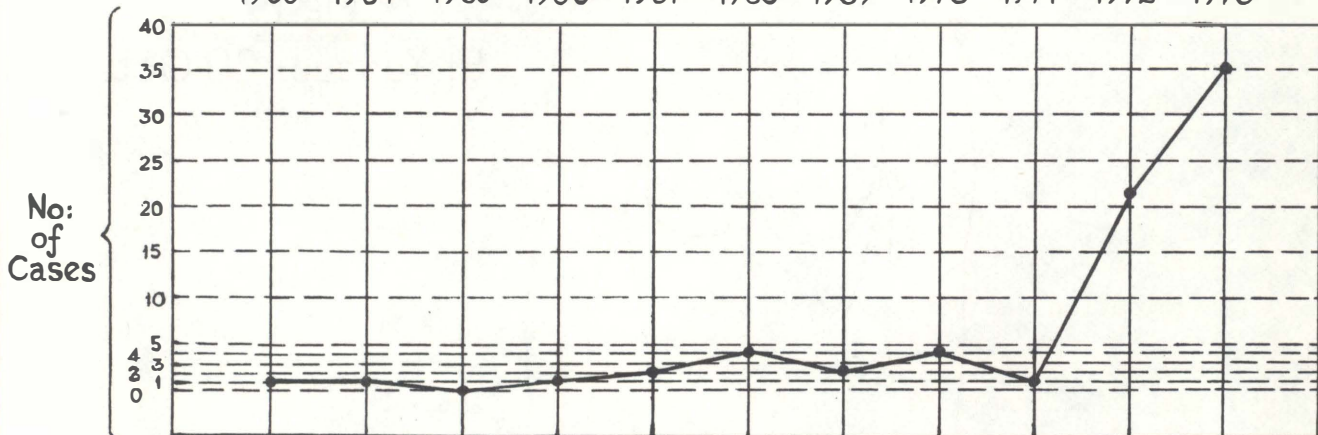


Fig. 4

Fig.5

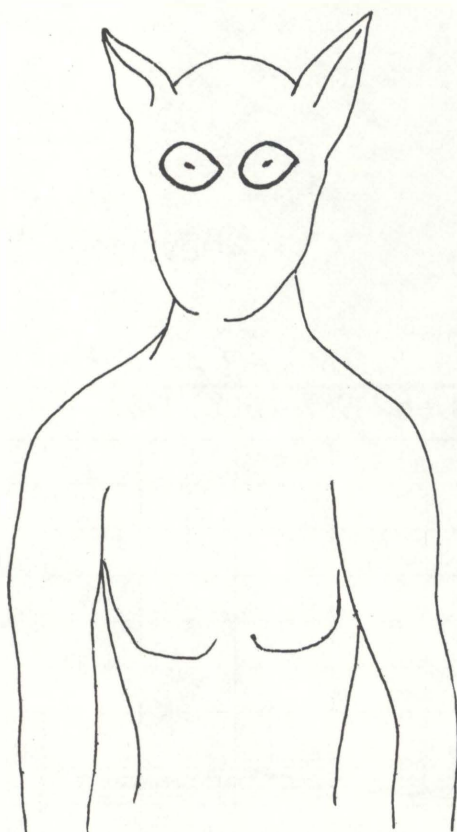
Arecibo: June 1973.



(i)
anterior view



(ii)
profile

Fig.6

El Yunque: 20 Oct. 1973.

The writer's telephone, as well as that of William Santana, was continually ringing throughout the Tuesday as a result of calls made by those wanting to congratulate us and, in several instances, to corroborate the sighting, as it soon became apparent that many others had also viewed the spectacle independently of those already mentioned. A number of these eyewitnesses mentioned that they had already tried in vain to contact the Director of the Weather Bureau. Mr Lopez-Nussa, for example, a close friend and neighbour of the Director --- Mr Colon --- could get no information from the Bureau switchboard operator as to why he was unable to speak to Mr Colon personally, and why, as he was informed, Mr Colon was away from the Bureau offices.

One very angry farmer telephoned the writer to say that he was ready to sue the Weather Bureau because, according to him, the illuminated balloon released by the Bureau had ruined a crop he had almost ready for market. The nature of the crop was not divulged, and it may be suspected that the farmer's anger resulted more from receiving the "brush-off" treatment accorded him and so many other enquiries by the Bureau when they (the Bureau) found themselves unable to deal with his request for information.

Public reaction to (a) the actual sighting, and (b) the Weather Bureau's subsequent statement must, however, have carried some weight, for on Wednesday, March 27th., the Weather Bureau, in a complete face-about, denied that they had had anything to do with the episode, and that it had not been caused by any balloon released by them; and that, furthermore, they did not know who was responsible for the original report released in the name of the Bureau to "El Mundo".

No official "explanation" of this remarkable sighting, attested to over a wide area by numerous persons of reliable character, has since been released, from which it may be concluded that the authorities (who are thus not authorities) are as baffled about the event as everyone else. At the time of writing, therefore, the object, whatever it was, remains a true UFO.

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Centro de Estudio de Objetos Voladores No Identificados,
Apartado 21177, San Juan,
Puerto Rico, 00923.

THE SPACESHIP EARTH,

by

John A. Keel.

You were probably taught in school that the Earth began as a chunk of flaming matter cast off by the Sun. It slowly cooled and solidified, then bolts of lightning smashed into random puddles of chemicals and turned them into living cells by some mysterious process. As the aeons passed, these cells united to form larger organisms until finally strange animals crawled out of the sea, replaced their gills with lungs and noses, and eventually developed into gangling creatures with arms and legs.

This basic theory has become one of the many myths of modern science. The only alternative, accepted by billions of people throughout history, is that

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of supernatural creation; that some great power or force manipulated stomic matter into a complex design called Man.

Today, a third theory is rapidly attracting attention, even though it has been bandied about for years by assorted cultists and cranks. It claims, in essence, that mankind neither evolved or was created on this planet, but rather that small groups of colonists migrated here, or were transported here, from some distant world. Our ancestors were neither water-based amphibians nor supernatural constructions. They were SPACEMEN! And the aerial "gods" of these early earthmen were really scientists from the home planet watching over and guiding the progress of their experimental progenies or "planted colonists".

Interestingly, the myths and traditions of every race and culture on this planet, including the modern flying saucer lore, indicate that the Sky People, as they may be conveniently termed, have remained in constant touch with us throughout the ages, and have constantly been "inspecting" us much as a farmer might inspect his herd of prize cattle. Our planet is, in a sense, a huge farm according to this hypothesis. Recall that the early gods advised us to go forth and multiply as rapidly as possible. This order to "replenish the earth" became an integral part of all our major religions. According to these myths, the gods even gave us tools for survival, by teaching us agriculture and the basic sciences. Every ancient culture preserved such traditions. The gods also warned us when major catastrophes, such as earthquakes and floods, were due; and when we perfected and detonated our atomic bombs, they scurried around this planet in the 1950's ordering us, according to the contactees, to cease and desist. They did not wish us to blow ourselves up because, maybe, they already had other plans for us.

The Home of the Gods.

Ever since the first flying saucer scare of 1947, the second biggest question (the first being "Do UFOs Exist At All?") has been, "If Flying Saucers are Real, Where do They Come From?". Factions among believers in flying saucers were soon advocating Mars and/or Venus as the place of origin. In the 1960's, the United States and the Soviet Union spent many billions of dollars and roubles sending probes to those planets. They discovered that Venus was very hot --- about 800° on the surface --- and probably could not support life (at least as we know it). Mars was found to be a dead world of craters and crevices, not unlike the Moon. There is, however, photographic evidence that Mars once contained that vital ingredient for life --- water.

Glumly, the space scientists agreed that, except for the third planet, our little Solar System was probably devoid of life. Certainly none of the other eight planets was harbouring a superior intelligence with a technology advanced enough to build and launch interplanetary spacecraft.

Yet, accumulating ufo reports continue to show that someone or something from somewhere is not only able to construct and launch such craft, but that they are visiting Earth in them!

A generation ago no scientist in his right mind supported the notion that other planets might exist outside the Solar System. Today, practically every astronomer and scientist connected with space problems and subjects publically

agrees that there are probably millions of planets in our own region of the Milky Way (our Sun is, of course, part of the galaxy popularly known as the Milky Way). By the laws of probability, thousands of these could be inhabited by life forms essentially like ourselves, even far superior to us.

But which of these many worlds is home base for the gods? They are all many light years away, and it would take us thousands of years just to establish radio contact with them --- if they have radio communication that is.

We keep hoping. Our recent space probe to Jupiter is decorated with designs meant to inform any extraterrestrial race there of our existence. Our radio telescopes periodically transmit mathematical messages into space wishfully in case there is anyone out there to receive them. Of course, even if our messages are received, it does not necessarily follow that the recipients would reply or even want to reply.

If we accept the observational evidence of millions of flying saucer eyewitnesses, these efforts at extraterrestrial communication are unnecessary. The Sky People are not huddled around radio receivers on some far-off planet. They are landing in our farm fields and on our highways, constantly administering medical tests to astonished Earthlings.

If UFOs and the Sky People are real, and if they have been watching over us for thousands of years (as ancient records and traditions seemingly imply), we might find the answer to their secret place of origin in the ancient myths. And, in fact, the myths and legends of all races, together with certain passages in the Bible, pinpoint their location precisely.

That place of origin is an obscure cluster of seven stars known as the Pleiades.

Dying Worlds.

Ancient men, from Australia to Babylon, from Africa to South America, placed special importance on the star-group known as the Pleiades. Modern scientists have discovered that several important features of the Great Pyramid at Giza, Egypt, are carefully aligned with the Pleiades. Innumerable myths from Africa, the Middle East, and even from remote isolated islands in the Pacific, not only describe the Sky People but soberly identify their place of origin as the Pleiades. There are many, many more important stars and constellations in the heavens, so why did all ancient peoples settle on the obscure Pleiades as the source of the Sky People? Why did the builders of Stonehenge, the Great Pyramid at Giza, and of many other ancient architectural edifices and structures carefully include this faint star-cluster in their calculations?

To the unaided eye, only seven stars in the Pleiades are commonly visible. Actually there are about 500 stars in this cluster, of which astronomers have catalogued some 250. They are comparatively close together, and their closeness means interaction of gravity, etc., are producing a rate of disintegration which can be calculated. In short, the Pleiades are doomed! Astronomers have also observed great clouds of gas drifting through the star cluster. If planets exist around some of these stars, such gas clouds could be raising havoc with any life forms on those worlds. Any scientists on a Pleiades planet would be able to calculate the disintegration rate as easily as our scientists have been able to.

It will take millions of years of our time for the Pleiades to self destruct, but, of course, our calculations are based on distant observations made with relatively primitive instruments. A scientist situated directly in the Pleiades might have a different, far more alarming basis for his calculations. A kind of panic might prevail as the Pleiadeans helplessly study the gradual cosmic turmoil in their sector of space. They might be engaged in a massive project for a suitable new home. If their populations are large, and they occupy a number of planets, total evacuation could be impractical. There would be only one, barely satisfactory, alternative.

Migration and colonization of other distant safer planets, for a selected few.

Colonies in Space.

Good, inhabitable planets may be scarcer in the Universe than our tables of probabilities suggest. After all, only one of the nine planets in our own Solar System is fit for life as we know it. To locate another Earth-like planet we might have to visit thousands of stars with planetary systems. Assuming that the Pleiadeans exist, and that they became aware of their problem thousands, even millions, of years ago, they would have had to have set up a long range exploration programme. Like us, they would have first sent out space probes to all parts of the more immediate regions of the Universe. Then they would have followed up with interstellar craft carrying a few dedicated explorers and colonists willing to travel for years, even generations, in space to the most promising of the worlds located by the original probes.

Generations later, colonists on those worlds would preserve little or no memory of their home planet, only vague, shadowy racial impressions and myths. As time passed, even the myths would become clouded with fantasy and irrelevant detail. But though the Sky People or "gods" would perhaps remind them from time to time about their origins, those reminders would be largely if not wholly incomprehensible.

Thus, if Man is descended from "colonists" of this type, he has evolved not as the product of some supernatural force or as a result of lightning bolts striking chemical puddles, but as the seed planted here by long forgotten "farmers" on a far away world. That world may have been situated in the star-cluster called the Pleiades.

The Project.

A super-technological race facing extinction would probably develop plans and programmes designed for their salvation that were so complex and so long ranged that they would, in all probability, be beyond our understanding. The possibilities developed in this article are such that we should now devote closer attention to possible extensions of the main theme.

The colonization of a remote planet might be only one of many special projects launched by such a super race. Other life forms might be deposited on other planets quite different from Earth. Indeed, half the Universe could be turned into a gigantic experimental "farm" by the ambitious and ingenious super race, who, in this case, are the Pleiadeans. This reminds us of the well known Biblical passage, "There are Many Mansions in My Father's House".

When it becomes evident to the super race that a colony is failing, they might ruthlessly destroy it and begin again, either there or elsewhere. In many legends and traditions early mankind is said to have developed along undesirable lines, much to the displeasure and dismay of the gods, who decided to eliminate the species except for a few chosen specimens. The Noachian deluge of the Old Testament is a good example of this ancient belief, although scores of others, equally illustrative, also exist.

It might also be that when an experiment produces excess population, it might be deemed advisable to sift off and evacuate a part of that population to another world in another sector of the Universe. Are the disappearances of humans, both as individuals and as groups, which some researchers have directly linked with UFO activity, instances of such action?

Even within Man's short and limited memory, there have been whole cultures on this planet which have simply vanished, leaving behind cities and artifacts but little else. Our racial memories are equally baffling. The Eskimos of the far north, for example, have a tradition that they were originally flown there in "metal birds". Now why would the pilots of such "metal birds" bother to move whole groups of people to some very inhospitable Arctic area? It all sounds like some experiment or project --- superficially outrageous until one recalls the many similar happenings described in myths and legends all over the world. Even the Bible, a valuable handbook in this type of study, recounts several such "experiments". The gods were always shuffling us around. And as we become more aware of what is perhaps actually still going on, we inevitably ask the following question: "Are we now in the final stages of this mysterious project?"

Even more unnerving is the possibility that a really super technology might be able to manipulate not only races and life forms but entire planets.

WHERE DID THE EARTH COME FROM?

The popular scientific explanation for the the creation of the Earth is a lot of rubbish.

The Sun is an atomic bomb with hydrogen atoms constantly ripping apart and turning into helium. It is also known that a chunk of the Sun would not be likely to cool and solidify. It would convert to energy and gas, and dissipate into space. If this process could produce a planet the size of the Earth (and it can't), the original material would have to be larger than the Sun; and helium would surely be a basic ingredient of the resultant atmosphere. Helium is one of the rarest gases of all on Earth (which has an atmosphere composed mainly of nitrogen), being found naturally only in the United States, principally in Texas. If the Earth was in fact an offshoot of the solar process, there should be pockets of helium on Earth everywhere, even if they were only of small extent.

Interestingly, the great dirigibles of the 1920's and 1930's had to be abandoned because there wasn't sufficient helium available, and they had to rely on dangerous hydrogen gas for their gas-bags.

Studies of rock formations suggest that the Earth is about three billion years old. Until very recently, astronomers believed that the Moon was cre-

ated about the same time, and some thought it might even be made from a piece of material wrenched from the Earth itself. Moon rocks recently brought back by our astronauts now indicate that the Moon is older than the Earth by approximately a billion years!

The Earth also appears to be dramatically different from all other planets in our Solar System, since the majority of the others are gaseous, or appear to be so. How come? Were the nine planets comprising our system created in different ways at different times?

As we learn more about Mars we may find that it is far older than the Earth or the Moon, and that it might have supported life aeons ago. Despite the long-standing controversy about the so-called "Martian canals", no tangible evidence exists for life now on Mars. Did the Martians migrate? Or were they transported elsewhere by "metal birds" at a certain period in their development?

If the Pleiadeans previously mentioned are a super race possessing fantastic technology, perhaps they not only have the means for space travel, but also a science so incredible that they can manipulate whole planets. Just possibly the position of Earth in the Solar System is actually due to their past interventions. Certainly some of the more mysterious features on this planet could be their handiwork.

If, as many ancient legends insist, a super race connected in some way with the Pleiades star-cluster does or did exist, then indeed all the possibilities discussed in this article may once have really happened, while they supervised their gigantic project. In this connection it is relevant to note that a few historians have suggested that Man's memories of the "Garden of Eden" are actually memories of some other world. More likely, however, they are just the memories of bewildered ancients who found themselves suddenly transported to inhospitable wastes, icy or sandy, their understanding as befuddled as are the memories of our modern ufo contactees.

Some Final Thoughts.

All of the foregoing is merely an intellectual exercise. The case for extraterrestrial life is built upon very fragile premises. Possibilities and probabilities are not certainties. Myths and legends have been so distorted by inaccurate repetition down the centuries that they are scarcely reliable as factual sources, even though we have referred to a few of them earlier. We can only relate and base our speculations on what we know about the modern appearances and behaviour of ufos. And the major lesson of the ufo saga is that the source of the objects is occupied with deceiving and confusing us, a claim I have elaborated upon in my book "UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse" (1970). Our Pleiadeans, therefore, are allegorical.

Man's search for extraterrestrial life may be a fruitless enterprise, based upon our growing and fearful loneliness. If there are other people sitting on a doomed planet in the Pleiades star-cluster, they may only be sharing our fear and loneliness. As the great naturalist, Dr Loren Eiseley, once said: "...somewhere across space great instruments, handled by strange, manipulative organs, may stare vainly at our floating cloud wrack, their owners yearning as we yearn".

BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NEWS,

by

J.B.Delair.

In a magazine such as this, space is inevitably at a premium in which to adequately review new books and publications. Thus from time to time, this factor dictates that some books and periodicals are not reviewed until several months after they have appeared in the bookshops. In this category is Erich von Daniken's latest tome, *IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS*, published earlier this year by Souvenir Press at the very reasonable price of £2.95p.

That this is a reasonable price is immediately apparent when one discovers that, of the 249 pages comprising this book, no less than 154 carry monochrome photographs and line-drawings, and that a further 24 are occupied by full-colour plates. Even though these illustrations are of somewhat uneven quality when considered overall, and especially in view of today's astronomical printing costs, *IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS* is therefore marvellous value at this price.

But von Daniken's book would be wonderful value at twice the price, since the illustrations just mentioned represent what is probably the largest single collection of such pictures having a (supposed) bearing on the "ancient astronauts" theme ever printed between two covers. Followers of this particular topic will already be familiar with many of the illustrations, as several have already appeared in some of the author's previous books. Nevertheless, many others --- while known to specialists for quite some time, are unlikely to be well known to the average reader. The fact that so many possibly inter-related illustrations have been assembled and published in a single volume is, of course, the most important feature of *IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS*, and there can be little doubt that this latest "dose" of the von Daniken "medicine" will go down well with a large number of readers. Actual reading matter has in fact been kept to a minimum; indeed, commentary is actually superfluous in some instances --- the pictures speak for themselves.

The only blemishes of note, which this reviewer found rather annoying is the odd location of the folio numbers which, in many instances, are confusingly positioned with the illustration numbers. Also, the absence of a contents list or some guide to the layout of the book, or as to why the illustrations appear in the order printed (their exact sequence is not always clear), is another minus sign. On the credit side, however, mention should be made of a useful bibliography. This, very surprisingly, is not headed as such and appears in fact to have been tacked on to the end of the book as a kind of after-thought. Despite these defects, *IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS* is recommended for its pictorial impressiveness and extremely reasonable price.

ALIENS FROM SPACE...THE REAL STORY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, by Donald E.Keyhoe, is another major ufo book published some months ago, in this instance by Doubleday & Co.Inc., at \$ 7.95c.

Donald Keyhoe requires no introduction to ufologists, for he is one of a dwindling band of individuals who have been continuously involved with the investigation of ufos since the early "classic" years of 1947 - 1952. It is now

several years since Keyhoe published his last book on ufos, so ALIENS FROM SPACE is especially welcome.

Keyhoe has for long had access to and contact with highly placed US government and military agencies, and information monitored by him via those sources constitutes much of the contents of this remarkable book. Collectively, these detail the developments associated with the ufo phenomenon that have been going on in certain official US circles over the past few decades, and, in particular, the past few years.

Some of Keyhoe's material is absolute dynamite. His disclosures connected with Project Ozma and "official" contacts with otherworld intelligencies, and his evidence for unquestionable ufo-originated power black-outs, of the repeated use by ufos of a highly controllable heat-force, of the U.S. Air Force's near desperate attempts to capture a ufo near Redmond, Oregon, and for a host of other equally intriguing aspects of the great ufo riddle are very well presented indeed. To reveal more here, however, would be to spoil the tremendous impact of this exceptional book written by an exceptional authority.

ALIENS FROM SPACE, which this reviewer feels should be mandatory reading for all ufologists, is very strongly recommended.

For all those who enjoy the books of von Daniken, Kolosimo and Tomas, Richard Mooney's COLONY: EARTH will no doubt be very welcome fare.

This book, one of the latest publications from Souvenir Press, is essentially a new distillation of much of the "evidence" already discussed by the three authors mentioned in the preceding paragraph. COLONY: EARTH nevertheless offers a variation on the well known theme explored by those writers, in that the many ancient megalithic structures to be found strewn over the Earth's surface were, although perhaps designed by space beings, actually erected under their supervision by early human communities. Among other items, Mooney questions whether the globally remembered Deluge was really an un-natural disaster perpetrated by an antediluvian civilization that knew too much --- the awesome result, perhaps, of a prehistoric nuclear war or of an ill-fated scientific experiment that went wrong and got out of control.

Some 251 pages in length COLONY: EARTH is devoid of illustrations, which, however, is perhaps not a bad thing. As a book it is nonetheless scholarly, extremely readable, and often quite exciting in some of its concepts. Mooney has evidently researched very widely, so it would, in this reviewer's opinion, have been a nice thing for the book to have included a bibliography tied to a numbered reference system in the text --- so as to have permitted the easy tracking down of who said what and where. On the other hand, there is an unusually accurate and comprehensive index, for which a hearty hoorah. Souvenir Press are to be congratulated on keeping the price of this fascinating volume down to £2.80p.

Published privately, but none the less intensely interesting for all that, is William R. Corliss's STRANGE PHENOMENA: A SOURCEBOOK OF UNUSUAL NATURAL PHENOMENA, which contains over 350 accounts of as yet unexplained occurrences involving such things as wheels of light, the celebrated Barisal guns, the notorious Andes glow, ball-lightning, and other weird phenomena. All these have been culled from such reputable journals as The Scientific American, Nature and Science.

All the entries covering the 277 pages comprising this book have been published before, but often in such obscure journals or in publications unusually difficult of access for the average reader, that the collecting together here of these quite obviously related and inter-related items represents a truly signal service to everyone interested in such phenomena. Indeed, not only is Mr Corliss to be highly commended for his tremendous efforts, but congratulated as well on the timeliness of his publication. An excellent index enables one to find one's way easily through the formidable mass of data presented in this interesting publication.

STRANGE PHENOMENA is obtainable direct from William R. Corliss, Box 107E, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057, U.S.A., and is splendid value at \$ 6.95c., to which a further 50 cents should be added by those ordering outside of the United States.

Just off the presses is Dr. Frank B. Salisbury's long awaited book, THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY, which is subtitled "A Biologist's Report". Although not yet available in the British Isles, this book is enormously impressive from every point of view, and can be obtained from the Devin-Adair Co., at \$ 7.95c., or direct from Miss Susanne Stebbing who advertises at the end of this issue.

Based entirely upon carefully researched and hitherto unreported ufo experiences from the Uintah Basin in Utah, Dr. Salisbury's book is just about as factually accurate and overwhelming in its logical presentation of a notoriously complex subject as any book about ufos ever could be. Indeed, this reviewer is convinced that THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY will be a model of its kind for decades to come. No ufologist worthy of the title can afford to be without a copy.

Nearly 300 pages in length, replete with maps, graphs, tables, photographs and eyewitness drawings of ufos actually observed, this book debates numerous facets of the ufo enigma often ignored by more superficial tomes. For example, it examines the difficulties of obtaining anything that science might reasonably regard as acceptable evidence; it discusses the psychological and sociological problems of eyewitnesses; it even reviews the difficulties of conducting serious and respectable scientific investigations in secret. Among other items discussed should be mentioned the contactee problem, lies, hoaxes, the lack of formal contact, ufos in history, and a fascinating account of some recent follow-up work carried out on the Betty Hill (of Betty and Barney Hill fame) star map. The implications of this work are fantastic; in fact it might even be that, provided this work has been accurately conducted, we are now already on the way to knowing where at least some ufos might be coming from.

One of Dr Salisbury's most significant conclusions offered in this book is that, in at least many recorded cases, ufo displays seem to have been staged specially for the eyewitnesses. This type of conclusion, and the questions that such conclusions engender, reflects Dr. Salisbury's scientific training and his constant and strict application of scientific principles when dealing with the evidence. Here, indeed, is the answer to all those who have expressed doubts concerning the value of the scientific empirical methods recommended by others, more perceptive perhaps, for unravelling this immense challenge.

Provided with no less than five appendices, an annotated bibliography, and an extensive index, THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY is a veritable milestone in the ufo

literature.

Still another recent publication meriting inclusion in this review is SECRET OF THE AGES: UFOS FROM INSIDE THE EARTH. This is Brinsley Le Poer Trench's latest book, in which he explores the possibility that some ufos originate from within the Earth where, he also claims, still lives a race of beings descended from antediluvian times.

The author develops the idea of a hollow Earth --- actually first mooted many years ago by Gardner and Reed --- from numerous strands of unusual and provocative "evidence", and links it with the legends about, and actual discoveries of, ancient tunnel systems below the surface and constructed millennia ago as refuges from then ever-present seismic upheavals, and as laboratories for diabolical experiments in the black arts and the creation of frightful hybrid and mutant life forms. These tunnels are also claimed to be minor portals to an inner world peopled by degenerate humanoid beings possessing all manner of sophisticated equipment left over from antediluvian eras. These degenerate beings are the Teros and Deros of the now well-known Shaver "mystery". Among the many miraculous machines these beings are said to possess are ufos or flying saucers, which are further said to emerge into our skies via holes at the Earth's poles, which are in fact the main entrances to this inner realm. This claim is backed up by some curious and impressive satellite photographs of the poles, in some of which indications of vast holes do apparently appear.

Mr Le Poer Trench then goes on to suggest that the less benevolent members of this inner world are planning, with the aid of their sophisticated weapons, to eventually take over the entire Earth, humanity along with it, and that this event will occur in the not too distant future. Rather disquieteningly, he links the sudden and by no means isolated disappearances of people with these plans of the inner Earth people, who abduct unsuspecting folk for horrid scientific experiments or for brainwashing so that the latter can be returned to the surface to work for "them" as a kind of fifth column.

Despite liberal references to a wide range of other publications and authorities, the sum total of indisputable accredited "evidence" in the SECRET OF THE AGES is actually quite small, and the main interest of the book is undoubtedly its presentation of many extremely thought-provoking ideas and suggestions. These make capital reading, but whether any of them can ever be supported by substantiated facts is another matter. On the other hand, there can no longer be any doubt that, as the author says, an inner Earth origin for ufos is the third choice available to ufologists, in addition to the already well-flogged extraterrestrial and intra-dimensional theories. SECRET OF THE AGES certainly sees to that.

This book unfortunately contains several typographical errors and, in places, curious inconsistencies of punctuation. These, however, are more than counter-balanced by the excellent system of references (commendably arranged by chapters), and the first-class index. Ufologists would do well to study this highly interesting tome, which is published by Souvenir Press at £2.60p.

Turning now to journals and magazines, it is a pleasure to note the recent re-emergence of UFO NEWS, edited by David T. Prockter. This newsy little periodical, it will be recalled, ceased publication for quite some while, so its

rebirth is indeed both welcome and an achievement during a period when financial and other considerations are forcing many ufo magazines to amalgamate or close down altogether. UFO NEWS can be obtained direct from D.T.Prockter, Esq., at 1 St Augustine's Court, Mornington Road, London, E.11.

Finally, news has reached this reviewer of the ufo slides now available from Bob Beck, of the Color Control Company, 6311 Yucca, Los Angeles, California 90028, u.s.a. Although no specimen slides have been seen by this writer, it is understood from usually reliable sources that a truly superlative selection of full colour ufo slides is being offered. Interested persons should send 50 cents, or the equivalent in non-dollar currency, to Mr.Robert Beck's address for a descriptive catalogue of the collection.

A PROPOSED NEW TAPE-RECORDINGS SERVICE

by

D.N.Mansell.

In response to the many enquiries received at Data Research for news of up-to-date ufo information, it has been proposed that tape-recordings (each with a playing time of 60 minutes) be produced in easy-to-listen-to straightforward language describing outstanding new ufo sightings. Each tape is expected to cost about £2.60p. A series of tapes will be produced over a period. All persons interested in further details of these products should write to me direct at 75 Norreys Road, Cumnor, near Oxford, Oxon., or telephone CUMnor 3320.

SELECTED UFO REPORTS

by

D.N.Mansell.

The following reports, obtained from a wide variety of sources supplied to Data Research, represent but a fraction of the overall total received for the current year. Several of them are still under investigation, thus the veracity of some of them is presently unknown. Nonetheless, as they currently stand, all are of considerable interest. They are presented chronologically.

January 2nd: Lamar, Missouri, USA:

Many Vernon County (Missouri) farmers in this district reported seeing a low flying ufo on this date. They described it as glowing, and as having port holes along its outer edges. Local police officers investigated the numerous separate accounts, but as of this date we have not received any further indications of the conclusions reached.

This is one of the cases we still have under review. Details will be issued in due course, as and when they become available.

January (exact date unrecorded): Between Whitchurch and Chester, Cheshire, UK:

On February 21st., the Wirral UFO Society issued a statement that they had received an account of a silvery-hued cigar-shaped object seen by a Mrs J.Roberts and her son while travelling between the two towns mentioned above. Unfortunately the exact date is unremembered by the eyewitnesses, although in due course it is hoped to isolate it firmly for the records.

18.

February 2nd. Ouzouer-sur-Loire, FRANCE:

On this date (vide Paris-Match, 2.2.1974) a gendarme was told by two women of this district that they had just seen a ufo from the Ouzouer-sur-Loire road. On going out, the gendarme saw the object too. Checks with a nearby aerodrome revealed that the object, which was like an inverted soup-plate, was not an aeroplane.

The gendarme, M.Gauthier, also mentioned that he had received a report of another ufo seen two days earlier by another local woman. Sketches made of the objects observed, by the eyewitnesses, proved to be remarkably similar.

February 2nd. Locality not localized:

According to the Guardian of this date, a mushroom shaped object is reported to have been seen and photographed from the French "Concorde", while at 56,000 feet altitude on a test flight. No further details are known, but French ufologists are making the appropriate enquiries and, hopefully, will procure copies of the alleged photographs.

June (exact date unrecorded): Lode Hill, Downton, Hampshire, UK:

At 11.55pm., on an unremembered date during the first half of this month, Mr Paul Green saw a noiseless, blue-coloured light, approximately the size of a large star, cross the entire sky in only 5 or 6 seconds. In doing so, it altered course from East to South-east abruptly. It was not a high-flying aeroplane, according to The Salisbury Times, of June 14th., 1974, which recorded the event.

June 17th. Winsford, Cheshire, UK:

At 11.45pm. on this date, two young men, who prefer anonymity, observed a brilliant white object of globular configuration. Initially it was stationary, but, after a few seconds, it moved off on a somewhat erratic course. At all times the object, which remained visible to the eyewitnesses for several minutes, was silent.

June 20th. Isle of Kvar, YUGOSLAVIA:

Two men, who wish to remain anonymous, reported that, at 8.50pm. on this date they saw a cross-shaped object, having an intensely white centre, travel silently from West to East at very fast speed. Its size was about that of a football held at arm's length. The witnesses estimated that its height was in the region of 1000 feet, and its speed at about 1000 miles per hour.

July 27th.(approximate date). Unlocalized site between Swindon and Cheltenham, ?Wiltshire, UK:

The sole witness of this event, a soldier, was travelling by train between the two above mentioned towns, when, from the carriage window, he noticed what he at first regarded as a small aeroplane. However, its subsequent movements, which included sudden stops, sharp-angled manoeuvres, sudden fast spurts and periods of no movement whatsoever, combined to suggest that this was no ordinary aeroplane, and induced the impression that it was a ufo. Checks made later of aircraft flights over the general area failed to disclose any flight that could account for the reported event.

August 2nd. Dursley, Gloucestershire, UK:

At 8.25am. on this date, a housewife of this town was driving her husband to work when she noticed in the sky to the left of her car an unusual aerial object. It looked like a silvery parachute, but with shining protrusions thrusting not downwards but sideways horizontally. The witness stopped her car a short distance further on, and got out to obtain a better view of the object. It was then seen that the part of it which she at first took to be a parachute was a shining, silvery, metallic ball or sphere. This was seen very clearly. The object progressed in a generally southwards direction with perhaps a slight inclination to the east, and disappeared over the skyline quite quickly.

August 14th. (approximate date). Near Abergavenny, Gwent, WALES:

A professional artist (name withheld) was motoring near this town at approximately 2.00am. when he saw an elliptical object, sharply outlined against the sky. He immediately drew a quick picture of it, after first stopping his car. After about five minutes the object became transparent, and then vanished. Throughout the duration of this sighting, this object remained completely stationary.

August 18th. Northwich, Cheshire, UK:

Mr Michael Lorenz, who is a field investigator for Contact UK, was the fortunate eyewitness, between 9.50pm and 10.10pm on this date, of no less than three objects. These were observed at different times within this period, so may have been either the same object seen on three separate occasions or were, indeed, three different objects.

The first object, which was perfectly round in shape, was seen heading South at a constant speed, when it suddenly altered course, as if performing a large curve. It was last seen heading South-east. The duration of this sighting was 5 minutes.

The second object, also of circular configuration, appeared in the sky at a point a little to the right of that of the first object, and was seen to alter its course from South-east to South. This object was also visible for approximately 5 minutes, and, like the preceding and following objects, was scrutinized through a 40 x 50 telescope.

The third object, which showed a more diffuse outline, appeared a few minutes after the second object had passed from view. It emanated from the same area of the sky as the previous objects and followed the same general direction. After about one minute it passed from sight behind a cloud.

It is worth mentioning that all three objects were silent. Their appearance does not accord with satellite or space debris flight schedules, while it is difficult to reconcile them with high-flying aeroplanes.

September 28th. Erdington, Birmingham, Warwickshire, UK:

Around 5.00pm. on or about this date, when generally calm and clear weather conditions prevailed, a lone eyewitness (who prefers anonymity) took two polaroid photographs of a domed saucer-shaped object which passed at no

great height over his residence. The photographs, which have kindly been presented to Contact UK, show a circular shaped object viewed obliquely from below. The main body of the object resembles an upturned saucer or dinner plate, surmounted by a domelike structure, from which appear to protrude two, perhaps three, "antennae". The object bears considerable similarity to those taken many years ago by Paul Trent and George Stock.

Both photographs contain useful points of reference, such as chimney pots, and telephone wires, and, at the time of writing, have the appearance of being genuine. They are currently being evaluated by photographic experts, and it is hoped that, when investigations have been completed, it will be possible to publish them in a future issue of "Awareness".

* * * * *

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our great appreciation of the efforts of all those members and correspondents who, answering my last appeal, have sent in to Data Research's headquarters the many hundreds of press-clippings from provincial newspapers relating to local ufo sightings. There is no doubt that we, at Data Research, would not have located these accounts without great difficulty, thus this service rendered by so many members is unusually praiseworthy and important.

It will immediately be appreciated that Data Research staff (who are in any case unpaid part-time enthusiasts) simply cannot peruse the columns of any newspaper except the national dailies. The retrieval of this locally published information by co-operative members thus assumes great significance, and shows how each and every member can, in effect, become a local listening post in the area in which he or she resides.

We are often asked by members how they can help with the research carried out at Data Research. While offers of assistance are naturally most welcome, the great distances separating many members one from another and, above all, from Data Research's headquarters, poses a serious difficulty when it comes to co-ordinating far-flung individual research efforts. Offers of help, then, have tended to have been courteously declined for just those reasons. However, the vast number of press-clippings received from members over the past year or so does suggest that here, indeed, is a very rich field for anyone to cultivate, for every member could, if they felt so inclined, constantly search the local newspapers, county journals, and other local publications regularly displayed by most reference libraries. These publications, it would appear, are devoting increasing space to local ufo observations. The number of these publications, nationwide, is such that no single group of researchers could ever hope to locate these valuable reports. They are valuable in that the vast majority of them are never published elsewhere, their publicity being both transient and of unpredictable appearance. We at Data Research, therefore, realize that you, our members, are in a peculiarly unique position to keep an eye on and track down locally published ufo reports, and, we should like to hope, to follow up at local newspaper level those other accounts which, tantalizingly, are not infrequently referred to in passing in the published accounts. Local newspaper files must be stuffed full of unpublished ufo reports. Perhaps you will help us unearth them.

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London Lectures: These normally occur on the first Saturday evening of the month, and feature distinguished speakers. The meetings provide an open forum for the exchange of information and ideas, and also an opportunity for members and friends to meet socially. Programme cards up to and including June 1975 are available on receipt of a S.A.E.

Research Headquarters: The Association has adopted Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire --- a private astronomical observatory --- as its research headquarters. A Research Bulletin is published periodically for members by the Research Director, Anthony Pace, FRAS, from this address. However current UFO reports are notified in the first instance to the National Investigation Co-ordinator, Ken.Phillips, in London, at: 26 Chevening Road, London, NW6 6DD. (Tel. 01. - 969 8847).

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